

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 SD Guard units receive national award, 115th BSC wins Eisenhower Trophy

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Twelve out of 42 South Dakota Army National Guard units received the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award in recognition of outstanding achievement during training year 2013. The Superior Unit Award is presented to units who meet highly-enforced military standards in the areas of personnel, training and readiness.

"The Superior Unit Award is very difficult to qualify for," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. "The fact that so many of our units have earned this award is a testament to our high training standards and overall organizational quality."

The top award for the state went to the 115th Brigade Signal Company, of Brookings, which received the Eisenhower Trophy for the most exceptional SDARNG unit. The Eisenhower Trophy is named in honor of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and awarded by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the ARNG unit in each state rated the most outstanding during the training year.

"The 115th BSC was established in 2007 and this award has been a goal for the unit since day one, so it is very rewarding to receive this honor," said Capt. Bracken Robinson, 115th commander. "The Soldiers in this unit have always gone the extra mile. This award is proof to how hard they have worked to form a cohesive unit and work as a team to achieve their goals."

Units that received the Superior Unit Award are:

Alpha Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion
740th Transportation Company
HHC, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
115th Brigade Signal Company
HHC, 153rd Engineer Battalion
211th Engineer Company
Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion
200th Engineer Company
152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
155th Engineer Company
1742nd Transportation Company
Alpha Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion

Aberdeen
Aberdeen and Milbank
Brookings
Brookings
Huron
Madison and De Smet
Parkston and Huron
Pierre, Mobridge and Chamberlain
Pierre
Rapid City and Wagner
Sioux Falls and Flandreau
Watertown

-more-

In order to achieve the award, units must maintain assigned personnel strength of 95 percent, complete inactive duty and annual training, and ensure that 95 percent of their Soldiers are fully qualified in their duty military occupation specialty. In addition to meeting training goals, weapon qualification rates, Army Physical Fitness Test results and unit inspections factor into award requirements.

This is also the second year in a row that the Superior Unit Award has been awarded to the 740th Transportation Company, 211th Engineer Company and Alpha Company, 139th BSB.

“To achieve the level of commitment that is needed to win these awards takes an enormous amount of dedication from the Soldiers, as well as support from both families and civilian employers,” said Robinson. “Their support makes it possible and allows our Soldiers the ability to overcome life’s everyday obstacles and achieve success.”

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



140712-Z-ZZ999-001: Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Signal Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, are awarded the Eisenhower Trophy, July 12, 2014, in Brookings, S.D., for most exceptional SDARNG unit for training year 2013. The Eisenhower Trophy is named in honor of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and awarded by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the ARNG unit in each state rated the most outstanding during the training year. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Dalton Davis/Released)



140712-Z-ZZ999-002: Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, are awarded the Superior Unit Award by U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, left, July 12, 2014, in Brookings, S.D. The HHC, 139th, was one of 12 SDARNG units to receive the award in the state whom met highly-enforced military standards in the areas of personnel, training and readiness. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Scott Green/Released)

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